

WAIVER OF STATEWIDENESS

AZRSA requested and obtained a Waiver of Statewideness in July, 2002. This waiver was necessary to honor commitments made in an Interagency Agreement between the AZRSA and the Arizona Department of Education. There are 29 current agreements.

The Interagency Agreement provides a greater level of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) participation in serving students in schools that provide matching funds. The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate seamless transition of students with disabilities from high school to the world of work in order to maximize their employability and integration into the workforce and community. This creates unequal opportunities for transition students in areas of the state where such agreements do not exist.

Services provided under this agreement include work readiness projects such as career awareness, career exploration and preparation, development of skills essential to success in the workplace, development of job seeking skills, resume and cover letters and the creation of work and school opportunities providing resources and hands on experiences. The term of the agreement may not exceed a total of five years from inception.

“Transfer Agreements” are used to receive funds from school districts that are used as match for federal dollars. The IGA includes an assurance that the funds made available to AZRSA from the school districts will be non-Federal funds. AZRSA commits to the schools that a predetermined amount of the resulting resources will be used to initiate VR Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) services to students who have been certified VR eligible while they are still in high school:

- One mechanism for preparing high school students for the workplace is by contracting with local school districts for “Youth Transition Projects.” These contracts permit AZRSA to develop and buy specialized vocational preparation services from schools for students with disabilities, while they are still enrolled in high school. These contracts also pay for additional VR staff to work with these schools.
- Another mechanism is to commit a predetermined amount of the resulting matched monies to pay for additional AZRSA staff to serve the school and to use as case service monies to initiate IPE services for high school students.

All services provided under this waiver are provided under an approved IPE and authorized by the responsible VR counselor. This Interagency Agreement includes a written assurance that state unit approval will be obtained for each proposed service before it is put into effect.

The Interagency Agreements contain assurances that all State Plan requirements, including the Order of Selection, will apply to all services approved under the waiver.

4.7(b)(3) Waiver of Statewideness

In connection with the submission of this attachment in regard to the FY 2009 State Plan, the AZRSA is requesting a Waiver of Statewideness in regard to the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Superior Court in Maricopa County.

These Interagency Agreements provide a greater level of Vocational Rehabilitation participation for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The purpose of the agreement is to provide service delivery that will improve access to vocational rehabilitation and transition services for youth with disabilities who are under probation terms. At this time, the agreements are limited to Maricopa County only. This creates unequal opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system whose counties do not participate in this agreement.

Services under this agreement include hiring a coordinator within Maricopa County to serve as a liaison to AZRSA and coordinate service implementation of this agreement, oversee the referral process and ensure smooth transition of clients, provide technical support to AZRSA staff related to service provision to the target population and coordinate service provision with community service providers with this target population.

Funding received from the AOC provides for dedicated staff and services for mutually-eligible clients. The ISA contains a written assurance that the funds made available from the Administrative Office of the Courts to AZRSA are non-Federal funds. Youth are referred through self referral, probation officers or other court officials. All services provided under this requested waiver are done so under an approved IPE and authorized by the responsible VR counselor. This Interagency Agreement includes a written assurance that state unit approval will be obtained for each proposed service before it is put into effect.

The Interagency Agreement contains assurances that all State Plan requirements, including the Order of Selection, will apply to all services approved under the requested waiver.